

DECISION NOTICE  
OPHIR SCHOOL SEPTIC/DRAINFIELD EASEMENT  
Prepared by Region 3, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
August 31, 1998

## PROPOSAL

The proposed action is to sell to Ophir School a 0.52 acre septic/drainfield easement. The easement would provide Ophir School the area required for expanding their existing drainfield in order to handle their increased enrollment. Ophir School would acquire this easement for \$1,300.

## MONTANA (MEPA) AND NATIONAL (NEPA) ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT PROCESS

In granting this septic/drainfield easement, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is required to assess impacts to the human and physical environment. This easement and its effects were documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA) to satisfy both MEPA and NEPA.

A 30 day comment period ran from July 23 through August 23, 1998. Public notices of the proposed action ran on five different occasions in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle and during three consecutive weeks in The Lone Peak Lookout. Approximately 28 copies of the draft EA were mailed to: the Montana Environmental Quality Council; county, state and federal agencies; interest groups including sporting and environmental groups; and several individuals. Because of the noncontroversial nature of the proposal no public hearing was held.

No new issues were generated during the public comment period. However, several minor modifications were made to the final EA, the description of which are outlined in the following section.

## ISSUES RAISED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

The EA lists the issues in detail. The actual acreage has been finalized from that reported in the Draft EA. Although the acreage is in the same tract of land described as 1 to 2 acres, the final acreage delineated for the easement is 0.52 acres. Its legal description is as follows:

The easement will consist of two adjacent tracts of land in Gallatin County, Montana, located in the NE1/4 of Section 17, Township 17 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M. containing a total of 0.527 acres.

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

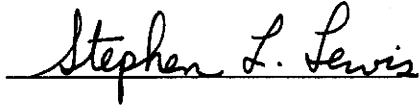
We received no comments on the Draft EA.

*Gallatin*

## DECISION

Utilizing the EA and public comment, a decision must be rendered by FWP which addresses the concerns and issues identified for this proposed septic/drainfield easement.

After reviewing this proposal and the noncontroversial aspects of this easement, it is my recommendation to sell this septic/drainfield easement to Ophir School subject to approval by the FWP Commission.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen L. Lewis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Stephen L. Lewis  
Regional Supervisor  
Bozeman, MT  
August 31, 1998